MESOPOTAMIA: "THAT BLESSED WORD MESOPOTAMIA."—What is the earliest occurrence of this phrase, or of the story on which it is founded? PARACELSUS.

LOSACK FAMILY.—My great-grandfather Richard Hawkshaw Losack, Lieutenant-General of the Leeward Isles (born 1730, died 1813), owned land in St. Kitts. James Losack was Speaker of the House of Assembly at St. Kitts in 1744. Both the above were descended from a French Huguenot *émigré*, Marc Antoine d'Astor de Lussac, Conte d'Eran.

I shall be very grateful to any one who will be so kind as to give me information about the family.

(Mrs.) C. M. CHADWICK.
Findhorn House, Forres, N.B.

TRUCHSESSIAN GALLERY, NEW ROAD.—Can any reader refer me to a copy of the sale catalogue of this collection or any information on its dispersal? I am familiar with the descriptive catalogue published 1 May, 1804, at sixpence, and the reference to it in Smith's 'Mary-Le-Bone,' 1833; but if it is possible, I should like to ascertain what these "masterpieces of art" realized and to whom they passed.

ALECK ABRAHAMS.

"CATTLE-DRIVE."—When was this term first applied to the system now so well known in Ireland that it is accepted in questions put in the House of Commons as the correct appellation? The quotation of 1878 given in 'H.E.D.'—"If cattle-driving was to be interpreted as levying war"—needs supplement to fit the phrase precisely to current use. POLITICIAN.

"IT TAKES ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE TO MAKE A WORLD."—Will any of your readers kindly say to what author this phrase can be attributed, or whether the obvious truism is of polyphyletic origin, and therefore is not traceable to an individual?

E. B.
Brighton.

LEO XIII.'S LATIN VERSES.—Pope Leo XIII., when dying a very old man, wrote certain Latin verses which were afterwards given to the world. Where can they be found?

Two of the lines are:—

Christus adest, miserans humili veniamque roganti
Peccatum, ah fides, eluet omne tibi.

W. COLDSTREAM.

'HOW HAPPY COULD I BE WITH EITHER!'—Would any of your readers kindly tell me who was the author of this song and give me its date? CHRISTOPHER HOLFORD.

[John Gay, 'The Beggar's Opera,' Act I. (1728).]

RICHARD BLACOW, Vicar of St. Mark's, Liverpool, was convicted at the Lancaster Summer Assizes, 1821, of publishing a libel on Queen Caroline in a sermon preached by him in St. Mark's Church, 26 Nov., 1820. Did he hold any preferment in the Church after his imprisonment? When did he die, and where? G. F. R. B.

RICHARD CANNING (1708–75).—Whom, and when, did he marry? The 'Dict. Nat. Biog.,' viii. 431, ignores his wife, but mentions his son. G. F. R. B.

JAMES CHELSUM (1740?–1801).—When and where did he die? The 'Dict. Nat. Biog.,' x. 183, says only that "he died near London in 1801, and was buried at Droxford." G. F. R. B.

ANSGAR, MASTER OF THE HORSE TO EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.—Can any reader assist me to find information about Ansgar, the Master of the Horse to Edward the Confessor, who resided at Waledon (now Saffron Walden) Castle? I have Lord Braybrooke's 'History of Audley End.'

THOMAS WM. HUCK.
Literary and Scientific Institution, Saffron Walden.

Replies.

GARGOYLES AT NOTRE DAME.
(11 S. i. 168.)

THERE is no book treating upon this particular kind of grotesque—one first introduced into Gothic architecture in this country (according to Parker's 'Glossary') in the thirteenth century. Numbers of isolated articles have been written on the subject by various authorities. Somewhat lengthy ones from my own pen may be found in *The Illustrated Carpenter and Builder* for 4 and 25 Nov., 1904, 26 May, 1905, 1 March, 1907, and some other numbers of the same journal, the dates of which I do not seem to have preserved.

In one of the latter occurs the history of the widely known series of gargoyles which form conspicuous objects on the outside of the Cathedral of Notre Dame at Paris.

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Many people are under the impression that these date from mediæval times, but, as a matter of fact, the creatures are little older than the venerable-looking, tall, crocketed pinnacles upon the exterior of Exeter Cathedral, the oldest of which is, as a matter of fact, fully a quarter of a century younger than myself!

Indeed, the Notre Dame gargoyles are not French workmanship. Most of these cleverly manipulated nondescripts, full of quaint conceit—some doing duty as water-spouts, but in many instances simply curious creations perched over the battlements, &c. —are exact reproductions of the old decayed original ones, removed by Viollet-le-Duc, the eminent architect, when he restored a great portion of the fabric about the middle of last century. At that time "Georgie" Myers—a Yorkshireman by birth, and then one of the largest and best-known London contractors—was engaged in building a large mansion for a member of the Rothschild family near Paris. One of the men employed there by him was an expert worker in stone named Frampton, a native of Beverley. After the work was completed at the Château, Viollet-le-Duc secured his services, and Frampton was the man who, under the architect's personal supervision, carved by far the greater part of the gargoyles in question. I knew him personally, and am perhaps one of the few left alive who are aware that they are his work.

Gargoyles or gurgoyles often took the human form, although almost invariably as caricatures. Mr. H. S. Marks's picture, exhibited at the Royal Academy many years ago, entitled 'The Franciscan Sculptor,' cleverly illustrated an elderly server in that Order standing in position as a model for a gargoyle, whilst a younger brother is seen busily engaged in making an exaggerated facsimile of him in a block of stone which projects from an aisle then in course of construction. Leaning over the parapet, and standing upon the lead flat just above, are half a dozen fellow monks looking down with interest at the progress made in his work by their more artistic brother.

The REV. C. W. A. PRESTON further inquires whether books exist treating upon the grotesque figures to be found in ecclesiastical architecture. I would refer him to 'The Grotesque in Church Art,' by Tindall Wildridge, published by William Andrews & Co., 5, Farringdon Avenue, E.C. (1899).

HARRY HEMS.

Fair Park, Exeter

I question whether much information on the subject of gargoyles can be found outside the pages of technical journals or comprehensive architectural works like Bloxam's 'Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture,' Fergusson's 'History of Architecture in all Countries,' or Cates's 'Dictionary of Architecture.' Ruskin's writings, of course, might be consulted. MR. PRESTON is no doubt aware of the chapter headed 'Grotesque Renaissance' in 'The Stones of Venice.'

Adorning the walls of the old palace at Stirling Castle are a number of uncouth figures, now sadly defaced by "the hungry tooth of time," some of them "gargoyles" in the most literal sense of the word. A brief reference to these figures is made in Camden's 'Britannia,' enlarged by Richard Gough, London, 1789, vol. iii. They are also mentioned and partly described in some of the local Stirling guide-books.

W. SCOTT.

Stirling.

The reference to gargoyles in Huysmans's 'La Cathédrale' may be noted:—

"Ces créatures hybrides matérialisant les vices vomis, rejetés du sanctuaire, rappelant au passant qui les voit expumer à pleine gueule les lies des gouttières, qu'hors de l'Église, ce ne sont que gémonies de l'esprit et cloaques de l'âme."

BENJ. WALKER.

Gravelly Hill, Erdington.

See *The Architectural Review*, vols. xi.–xiv. for a series of illustrated articles entitled 'Mediæval Figure-Sculpture in England.'

G. S. PARRY.

RICHARD HENRY ALEXANDER BENNET (11 S. i. 189, 238, 311).—MR. A. F. ROBBINS, who is a native of Launceston, and writes with authority (the value of which I can fully appreciate) on Cornish elections, prefaces his reply to me with the remark that I am "assuredly too positive" in stating that the R. H. A. Bennet who was a captain in the Navy and sat for Launceston and Enniskillen between 1802 and 1812 never represented Newport. MR. ROBBINS's facts about the M.P. for Newport (with which I am perfectly familiar, and was so when I wrote, *ante*, p. 238) are correct in the material points: his inference that the Bennet of 1770 was identical with the captain of the same name who was M.P. in 1802, is improbable and can be proved to be incorrect, as I now proceed to show.

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